

Seattle Organics Processing RFP – Proposer Question & Answer Set #4

- 1. Should proposed facilities be listed on all Proposal Forms for just on Form 6? The recently posted MS Word Document for the Appendix A Forms included a 'Facility' line in the header of all Forms, unlike the prior PDF version of Appendix A which only listed 'Facility' on the top of Form 6.**

The proposed Facility need only be listed on Form 6 as provided in the original PDF for Appendix A. If multiple facilities are proposed, a separate Form 6 should be completed for each facility.

- 2. Can the proposer assume that the requirement under the Base Services on page 5 for needing to have a process capable of composting City-approved compostable bags and City-approved single-use compostable food service packing are not applicable to anaerobic digestion facilities?**

All base proposals will need to provide for the processing of all Organic Waste received, including compostable bags and food service packaging that have been approved by the City and its processors. If a Proposer is proposing primarily a digester system for all waste, then the Proposer will need clarify how solids are to be handled after digestion, including any further processing of compostable bags and packaging (in response to question C.3 in Chapter VI of the RFP).

- 3. Can the proposer assume that the testing program requirement for compostable bags and single-use food service ware under Section 170 of the draft "Organics Processing Contract" are not applicable to anaerobic digestion facilities?**

As described above, all base proposals will include the processing of compostable bags and packaging; and the processor will provide ongoing testing of current and new compostable products to confirm if they can be successfully processed or not.

- 4. One of the requirements for the Alternative Proposals is that "The processing system must produce marketable compost and/or land application products that meet applicable Washington State standards." Can the proposer assume that this requirement will not be applicable in case of anaerobic digestion facilities with the understanding that the digestate from such a facility may be further processed at an alternative location as per this requirement?**

The base specifications for end products from digesters (RFP page 7) require that "handling and composting of digestate must meet all current and future state regulations, guidance and testing standards." Any alternative proposals should also meet this requirement.

- 5. Will a proposal meet the base requirements if material cannot be accepted at the processor's facility on April 1, 2014 but agrees to accept material on that date and makes arrangements for adequate processing at other facilities before its own facility starts commercial operations (before April 1, 2015)?**

Yes this is acceptable for base proposals. All proposals must include pricing for contract terms beginning in both April 2014 and April 2015 as described in the RFP. All proposals must be tied to specific facilities that will be operating no later than April 2015. If the proposed facilities will not be operating prior to April 2015, then proposers should still be prepared to sign a contract for service beginning in April 2014, if desired by the City. In that scenario, the selected vendor would honor the prices and terms of the service contract through arrangements with interim facilities. The City would expect any interim service arrangements to be completed prior to signing the City service contract in January 2013.

- 6. What percentage of organic waste is currently transferred to the Maple Valley versus the Everett location?**

In 2011, the City hauled 60% of the organic waste from City stations to Maple Valley and 40% to Everett. We do not have data on 2011 split for loads hauled from Waste Management's Eastmont station.

- 7. What's the maximum height and length trailer the City's transfer stations can accept? Will the City accept 53' trailers?**

The new stations have been designed to accommodate up to 48 foot trailers. The maximum trailer height is 13.5 feet.

- 8. Will the City allow afterhours access to pick up full trailers? What are the hours of access to the transfer stations, we would like to have the option of extended hours?**

Access afterhours could be negotiated in a final processing contract if relevant. Reminder, for all base proposals, the hauling out of the City stations will performed by the City. Alternative proposals can include hauling directly from City stations by the processor.

- 9. Are there in-floor scales in the truck loading areas at the transfer stations to ensure maximum legal payloads?**

Both rebuilt City stations will have load scales for all top loading and compactor loading operations.

10. In addition to the contamination percent by weight information already supplied, do you have data about the volume of contamination from the most recent City of Seattle organics composition study? If so, please provide that data to all bidders as proposed new regulations are expected to pertain to contamination by volume versus weight.

We do not have conclusive volume data at this point. Our current processor has attempted composition estimates based on the February sample data and density estimates for relevant components. Other proposers are welcome to attempt similar estimates if desired. As described in Q&A Set 2, Q1 and Q&A Set 3, Q11, the February composition data provide an initial indication of likely winter composition but do not yet represent data for annual composition. We expect additional sampling will show the February samples to be relatively low on yard debris and therefore relatively high on food and contamination.

11. Can proposers submit only an alternative proposal?

No. A base proposal is required of all proposers.